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Davis Awards \$500,000 Grant to City of Scottsburg for New Community Services Building

INDIANAPOLIS—Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis today awarded a \$500,000 Community Focus Fund grant to the city of Scottsburg to construct a new facility for Ohio Valley Opportunities Inc.

Ohio Valley Opportunities is a Community Action Agency that has served the residents of Jefferson, Jennings and Scott counties for almost 40 years. The agency provides services such as Head Start, Even Start Family Literacy and homeownership counseling. The city of Scottsburg will use its Community Focus Fund (CFF) grant to construct a new, 4,500-square-foot facility for the agency, allowing it to offer all services under one roof.

"This is a great project that will significantly impact the quality of life for Scottsburg's residents," said Davis, who serves as director of the Indiana Department of Commerce. "This new facility will provide a location where people can take advantage of a wide array of services and educational opportunities."

The new Ohio Valley Opportunities facility is designed to be expanded as the need for services grow. Currently, the agency's services are delivered from four separate locations, none of which have adequate space to deliver the Scott County programs. This project will help the agency offer a full range of services in a cost-effective way.

The Community Focus Fund is a federally funded grant program administered by the Indiana Department of Commerce. The funding is available to small cities, towns and counties for construction projects designed to benefit low- to moderate-income individuals or to eliminate blight in communities. Grants are awarded through competitive funding rounds to assist small communities in long-term development projects.

Projects eligible for CFF grants include local infrastructure improvements, childcare facilities, senior and community centers, downtown revitalization and fire stations and fire trucks. Up to \$500,000 is available per applicant. A match of at least 10 percent is required from the grant recipient.

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In this, the second round of funding for 2004, 37 Hoosier communities shared in nearly \$15 million in funding.

For more information about the CFF grant program, contact the Office of Community Assistance in the Community Development Division of the Indiana Department of Commerce at 800.824.2476 or access its Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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